CONSUMER TIME

THE WORK OF THE U. S. FOREST SERVICE

NETWORK: NBC DATE: November 3, 1945

ORIGIN: WRC TIME: 12:15-12:30 PM - PST

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1. SOUND: CASH REGISTER RINGS TWICE...MONEY IN TILL

2. JOHN: It's CONSUMER TIME!

3. SOUND: CASH REGISTER....CLOSE DRAWER.

4. ANNCR: During the next fifteen minutes, the National Broadcasting Company and its affiliated independent stations make their facilities available as a public service for the presentation of CONSUMER TIME by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

5. MAN: (SHOUTING)..TIM-BER!

6. SOUND: CRASH OF TREE

7. MAN: (SHOUTING...GREATER DISTANCE) Tim-ber!

8. SOUND: CRASH OF TREE...FAINTER.

9. MUSIC: CROSSFADE WITH SOUND. BRIEF BRIDGE...FADE AND HOLD UNDER.

10. JOHN: This is the story of America's forests....and woodlands.

11. WOMAN: The story of what the forests and woodlands of the Nation ...mean to you.

12. MUSIC: UP FOR SINGLE CHORD EFFECT...DEVICE BEHIND

13. MAN: Your house....

14. JOHN: Your furniture...

15. WOMAN: The books you read....

16. MAN: Your newspaper....

17. JOHN: The water you drink...

[illegible]

18. WOMAN: The children's toys...

19. MUSIC: OUT

20. JOHN: There are more than ten thousand products made of wood.

21. WOMAN: Can you imagine your home; your everyday life...without wood.. without paper, without wood products.

22. JOHN: Listen now, to the story of America's timberlands.

23. MUSIC: BRIDGE

24. MAN: Suppose today we join one of Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers, riding on horseback, making his way through the great tall trees of a Western National Forest. (FADE) He seems to be in a hurry to get somewhere...

25. SOUND: (HORSES HOOVES...FADE UP....HOLD)

26. WOMAN: (CALLING) Hey! Hey, Ranger! Wait for me!

27. RANGER: Whoa....whoa...there...

28. SOUND: HORSES HOOVES SLOW AND STOP. JOINED BY SECOND HORSE WHICH ALSO STOPS.

29. WOMAN: (OUT OF BREATH...OVER SOUND) My goodness...you Rangers can sure go fast through these trees...I almost lost you a couple of times back there...

30. RANGER: Well, now I'm sorry! I was sort of in a hurry. (PAUSE) If I may ask...just what are you doing way out here in the middle of nowhere...?

31. WOMAN: Well...see it's this way. I came here, sort of, well... to ask questions...to find out some things...

32. RANGER: To ask questions! About what?

33. WOMAN: Well, kind of about trees, and forest fires, and logging... and I guess just things about the woods in general. You see...I...

34. RANGER: You're a question-asker.

35. WOMAN: Yes. Actually, I'm an Inquiring Housewife, from the CONSUMER TIME radio program. And you're supposed to tell me the answe: You being a forest ranger that is...

36. RANGER: Oh, I see...

37. WOMAN: It's like this. You see we consumers...

38. RANGER: Look, we'll have to hurry now...because I've got a job to do this morning. You just keep up with me...and ask away. Giddap, Julie.

39. SOUND: HORSES ACCOMPANY

40. WOMAN: (JOGGING VOICE) You see, we consumers, well we hear a lot about forests; and about how many things we use that are made out of wood; and how important forests are to people...We hear about these things...but...

41. RANGER: But you're just not up on the particulars, is that it?

42. WOMAN: That's it...

43. RANGER: Well, I can tell you some pretty supprising things about forests...(SUDDENLY) Look out, now...take it easy on this trail...we've got a steep climb ahead of us.

44. WOMAN: (SORT OF OUT OF BREATH) Where on earth are we going?

45. RANGER: You'll see...(TO HORSE) Easy, Julie! As I was saying, I can tell you a couple of things about the woods of this c country I'll bet you didn't know.

46. WOMAN: That's a safe bet.

47. RANGER: For instance...did you know that the forest situation in this country is something everyone ought to be concerned about?

48. WOMAN: Is that right, Ranger?

49. RANGER: It's absolutely true. Putting it in a nutshell...we're not growing trees as fast as we're using them up.

50. WOMAN: But for goodness sake. With all the millions of trees there are...

51. RANGER: Sure! Take a look through that clearing over there. We're so high up you can see for miles. It looks as though the whole country is nothing but trees. Seems like we'd never be able to use 'em up in hundreds of years. But right now, for every <u>three</u> logs that disappear from the woods, only <u>two</u> are growing back to replace them.

52. WOMAN: Why...I had no idea.

53. RANGER: You bet. Right now in this country we're not doing a good enough job of growing trees. And lots of people who are cutting down the trees aren't planning for the future. They're cutting everything in sight, and that often makes just plain wasteland.

54. WOMAN: That sounds terrible.

55. RANGER: And then of course forest fires, and insects and tree diseases are taking a heavy toll of our timber resources.

56. WOMAN: Well...what can be done about it?

57. RANGER: I guess people will just have to wake up and realize what's happening. It isn't too late yet...we've still got time to restore some of the forests that are run-down...and to change our bad logging practices.

58. WOMAN: Well, I never...look! What's that over there?

59. RANGER: That's where we're heading. That's a lookout tower...to spot forest fires.

60. WOMAN: Oh! Wouldn't it be exciting to see a fire.

61. RANGER: That's not exactly my idea of excitement. You know a forest fire's a pretty awful thing... Ever been up close to one?

62. WOMAN: Well, no not exactly.

63. RANGER: It's about the saddest thing there is, I guess. Besides all the little animals that lost their lives...these valuable trees can take a beating they'll never recover from. Thousands of acres are destroyed in one fire sometimes...and then the land really suffers.

64. WOMAN: Yes, we hear a lot about not throwing cigarettes away in the woods. A woman made a speech about it in our study club, during fire prevention week.

65. RANGER: Well, it's a good thing to remember. But don't forget this. Too-early and too-heavy cutting of young trees can be more dangerous to forests than fire. Well...here we are at the tower. Whoa, there, Julie...(DISMOUNTS) Can I help you down?

66. WOMAN: (JUMPS DOWN) Nope...I'm O.K. Gee, do you have to climb way up that thing?

67. RANGER: I'm afraid so. No escalators in the fire towers yet. Think you can make it?

68. WOMAN: I...I guess I can. Do you actually get inside that little box way up on top?

69. RANGER: Sure...it's not so little when you get up there...Come on...

70. SOUND: FOOTSTEPS CLIMBING ON METAL STEPS

71. RANGER: One of our fire guards is up there right now...

72. WOMAN: (CALLING FROM BELOW) Does he live there all the time?

73. RANGER: (CALLING DOWN) Just during the forest fire season. Has to be on duty constantly. Say...are you all right down there?

74. WOMAN: (FROM BELOW) It's kind of...windy...and we're so high... I don't dare look down.

75. RANGER: (IN CLOSE) Well here we are at the top. Now you just follow me up through this trap door.

76. TOM: Hello there, Ranger. Hey, we've got company!

77. RANGER: Hello, Tom. Come on up, ma'am...that's it. Tom, this is a question-asking, inquiring housewife...wants to know what we fellows do out here...and all about the forests and forest fires...and...

78. TOM: I'll bet you couldn't get a question in edgewise once the Ranger started talking, eh ma'am?

79. WOMAN: He told me some amazing things.

80. TOM: Well, you just make yourself right at home in our little crow's nest. We're always glad to have visitors...

81. SOUND: LOUD TELEPHONE RING

82. TOM: That's MacGregor on Hawk Tower. I had him checking on a... Hello! Yeah, Mac. I see...Well I've got it located with my finder too. It's over behind Crowfoot Pass. Sure, the Dispatcher oughta send him out right away. I'll keep an eye on it too. No it doesn't look so bad from here yet... but with that wind blowing, we'd better get right to her... O.K., and say, Mac. The Ranger's here, if Dispatcher wants him. Right...I'll check with you later...

83. WOMAN: My goodness...is that really a fire...way over there? That little tiny bit of smoke?

84. TOM: They all start out little, ma'am...'bout as little as the head of a match, most of 'em.

85. RANGER: Is Mac asking for the plane?

86. TOM: Yes...that's a tough place to get to...

87. RANGER: Good...we can't afford to take any chances with a ground crew.

88. WOMAN: You mean to say you use airplanes to fight forest fires?

89. RANGER: We sure do. In a tough area like this, we fight the fires with paratroopers. They jump out of the plane, carrying full equipment...

90. TOM: We call 'em smoke-jumpers. You'll see them in a few minutes. They'll jump out of that plane.

91. WOMAN: Goodness...don't they ever get trapped in the fire?

92. SOUND: PLANE SLOWLY FADE IN BEHIND...UP AND FADE OUT.

93. RANGER: Well, they've got to be pretty quick. But they're equipped with portable short-wave radio sets, and food supplies, as well as their fighting equipment, so they get along all right.

94. WOMAN: They sure must be brave. Say...isn't that the plane coming in now? It's circling over the smoke.

95. TOM: Yep, he's right over it. Watch carefully now...you'll see the men jump.

96. WOMAN: (EXCITED) Oh look. There they go! I see them.

97. TOM: One...three...four...five. That's the crew.

98. WOMAN: Now they're down...in among the trees. What a wonderful sight that was. I hope they landed safely.

99. RANGER: Oh, they'll be all right.
Do you know, ma'am, that we fight about ten thousand fires every year in the National Forests alone? The story is much worse on forest lands that aren't protected by Federal or State Rangers.

100. TOM: And more than half of these fires are caused by careless people.

101. RANGER: And of course that just means fewer trees...some kinds of wood harder to find...it means soil erosion...a bad effect on the water supply, wildlife and recreation. A tragic and unnecessary waste in every case.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

102. WOMAN: But it looks to me, then, that even if there were no more forest fires, our trees are disappearing faster than new ones grow back.

103. RANGER: That's right, ma'am.

104. WOMAN: But now look, what about tree-planting and reforestation. Doesn't that help any?

105. RANGER: It certainly does help. Every new tree that's planted helps. I hope we'll be able to do a lot of tree planting now that the war's over. But it's not enough just to plant new forests. The important thing is...when we cut timber from our present forests, that we do it carefully and with a view to the future.

106. TOM: What Ranger means is that we shouldn't cut the young stuff... and we should never strip a forest bare. The little follows should be left to mature...

107. WOMAN: But maybe the country won't be needing as much wood in years to come.

108. RANGER: That's just it. It looks as though we'll need more than ever before. Just look at all the houses folks want to build right now.

109. TOM: Every time you pick up the paper you read about how hundreds of veterans are coming back to this town and that town... looking for places to live. To say nothing of all the repairs that people need on their houses now.

110. RANGER: Bet you didn't know they even make plastics out of wood... and photographic film too....

111. WOMAN: No...I didn't!

112. RANGER: We believe that in the future, folks will be using more than 20 billion cubic feet of wood a year. And if that doesn't mean very much to you...just figure that it's almost twice what we're growing every year right now.

113. TOM: The Ranger's all hopped up on this subject...and he's right, ma'am..

114. WOMAN: Well you know after hearing all this, I feel that I ought to be able to figure out something I could do about it... Something to tell the folks in my community.

115. RANGER: Oh there are a number of ways people can help, you know. I mean besides the timber-owners and operators. In addition to helping prevent fires, why communities can grow what we call Community Forests.

116. WOMAN: Oh yes, I've heard of those.

117. TOM: That's an old form of forest conservation. Americans did it back in Colonial times...countries, villages, townships, schools...planted thousands of trees.

118. RANGER: Not only for beauty, but for local industry, too. And lots of these forests are planted to protect the local water supply.

119. TOM: There are more than two-thousand community forests in this country.

120. WOMAN: There isn't one in my community. I think I'll see whether we could start one.

121. RANGER: Well, your local State or Federal forester will help out, you know. That's part of their job...what is it we say? "To exercise leadership in all phases of forestry for public welfare..."

122. TOM: Yes, Ma'am, for the permanent good of all people...and not just for the temporary benefit of a few individuals. That's our motto in managing these national forests for the American people.

123. WOMAN: You know I had no idea the Forest Service did all these things

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124. RANGER: On our National forests we practice scientific methods of cutting trees...and conserving the woods in every possible way.

125. WOMAN: How much forest land does the Government own?

126. RANGER: About a quarter of the commercial forest land is owned by Federal and State governments, and communities, but of course the best timberland is privately owned.

127. TOM: So we depend mostly on private lands for our lumber supplies.

128. RANGER: Now of course a lot of these private owners are practicing new and modern methods of cutting...being very careful to think ahead, and not just strip the land bare.

129. TOM: But a lot of 'em are still cutting wood any old way, and just not worrying about tomorrow. And that means, among other things, deserted towns, where hustling forest communities used to be...It means people out of work.

130. WOMAN: So these people just have to learn about better forestry, is that it?

131. RANGER: Yes they do...because at the rate things are going now, we're in real danger of a very bad timber shortage, in years to come, and that's no joke.

132. SOUND: PLANE FADE SLOWLY IN, UP, AND OUT, AS BEFORE.

133. TOM: Look the plane's going back to base...the boys are O.K.

134. WOMAN: Then it isn't going to be a bad fire.

135. RANGER: I've been keeping my eye on it. Guess those smoke-jumpers got right in there fast... It doesn't look so bad now.

136. WOMAN: There is a lot less smoke. Maybe they've put it out already.

137. RANGER: Well at any rate, they've got it licked. Nice work, Tom, all the way through.

138. TOM: Thanks, Ranger. And now, ma'am, there was something else I was going to say to you...about what people can do to help preserve our forests.

139. WOMAN: What's that?

140. TOM: We were talking about preventing fires...and then how a community can get together and plant or acquire a forest as a conservation measure. There's something else that's mighty important and it's this. It's important to understand about forests...to understand the relation of our timberlands to your own way of life. How important they are to our very existence. Then with that understanding, folks can get together and give a kind of moral support to all measures that will preserve the forests for our common good. To stop the dreadful waste that's going on right now.

141. MUSIC: FAINTLY BEHIND...BUILDING.

142. TOM: There's a saying that keeps running through my mind...I'd like to pass on to you...it's a good one to remember. "When the forests go, the waters go, fish and game go, crops go, herds and flocks go, fertility departs. Gradually the age-old phantoms appear, stealthily one after another... flood, drought, fire, famine."

143. MUSIC: UP FOR BRIDGE

144. ANNCR: And so ends CONSUMER TIME's story of the Nation's Forests ...and the work of the United States Forest Service. This is the time of year when we like to get out in the woods ...in the brisk autumn air...and cook a delicious meal over the campfire. The Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has prepared a 24-page booklet entitled "Cooking Over the Campfire", which is yours free. (MORE)

ANNCR (CONT'D) Write to CONSUMER TIME, Washington 25, D. C. This booklet contains many pages of inviting recipes...for outdoor meals. It tells you how to build a campfire...how to prepare meat and game outdoors...how to make breads, soups and chowders, desserts...and it even includes good, wholesome recipes used by cooks in lumber camps. Send for your free copy of the recipe booklet "Cooking Over a Campfire". You will also receive a copy of the educational booklet entitled "Don't Kill the Forest Goose", which contains valuable suggestions on forest conservation. Remember, that's CONSUMER TIME, Washington 25, D. C. Be sure to include your name, address, and the name of the station to which you're listening. Write for your copy today.

145. MUSIC: CONCLUDING THEME

146. JOHN: Next week, we're going to hear the story of the Soil Conservation Service...and how modern methods of saving top soil have improved America's agriculture.
Be with us then, for another edition of...

147. SOUND: CASH REGISTER

148. JOHN: CONSUMER TIME!

149. SOUND: CASH REGISTER...CLOSE DRAWER.

150. ANNCR: CONSUMER TIME, written by Christine Kempton, is presented by the U. S. Department of Agriculture through the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company and its affiliated independent stations. It comes to you from Washington, D.C. This broadcast period for CONSUMER TIME has been made available as a public service.

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